Gauge conversion in North-Eastern Region

1412. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of metre gauge conversion works into broad guage which has been completed in the North-Eastern Region, State-wise/zone-wise/route-wise;

(b) the details of such rail lines in the regions, area-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for development and expansion of railway lines in NER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Since 1992-93, 1079 Kms of metre gauge lines have been converted into Broad Gauge (BG) under various projects falling partially/fully in North-Eastern (NE) Region. The details are as under:—

SI. No.	Section	Length (in Kms)	State
1	Guwahati-Lumding gauge conversion including Chaparmukh-Haibargaon.	202	Assam
2	Guwahati-Lumding-Dibrugarh and linked fingers GC	620	Assam, Nagaland
3	New Jalpaiguri/Siliguri-Fakiragram.	257	Assam, West Bengal

Besides the above, 6 new lines and 5 gauge conversion projects have been taken up in NE Region for development of rail infrastructure which on completion will add about 1700 Kms of BG lines in the region. Kumarghat-Agartala new line, Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam gauge conversion and Jiribam-Imphal Road (Tupul) new line have been declared as National Projects. The part funds for these projects would be provided as an additionality to complete by March, 2007, March, 2009 and March, 2010 respectively.